



USDA – National
Agricultural Statistics
Service, Tennessee
Field Office

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin



Cooperating with
Tennessee Department
of Agriculture

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Released Weekly April - November

Issued Monday 3:00 PM, May 22, 2006

Week Ending May 21, 2006

Drier Weather Welcome Sight for Tennessee Farmers

Although scattered showers remained prevalent across the State last week, conditions were dry enough to allow for 4 days of some much needed fieldwork. Farmers concentrated most of their efforts toward planting row crops and harvesting hay. Cotton farmers really picked up the pace with more than a third of their crop planted last week. Despite this rapid progress, planting remains nearly 5 days behind the normal schedule. Corn growers nearly completed their planting activities last week with only a small number of acres remaining. Soybeans planting and development were on schedule with no major problems reported. Half of the State's wheat was turning color, and the crop was rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition. As of Sunday, just under a quarter of the tobacco crop had been transplanted. The first cutting of hay continued to lag behind last year and the 5-year average with the crop rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 3 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 21 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 9 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 17 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged below normal statewide last week with average highs ranging from around 80 in the West to the upper 60s and lower 70s in the East. Precipitation averaged below normal across most of the state as well.

CROP PROGRESS: Through May 21, 2006					CONDITION: On May 19, 2006					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2005	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent					Percent				
Corn Planted	98	93	99	97	Corn	0	4	23	52	21
Corn Emerged	92	87	92	93	Hay	2	9	31	48	10
Cotton Planted	64	29	92	72	Pastures	1	3	20	61	15
Hay 1 st Cutting	24	12	46	38	Winter Wheat	1	5	17	55	22
Soybeans Planted	36	18	64	35						
Soybeans Emerged	18	10	28	18						
Tobacco Transplanted	24	11	42	35						
Winter Wheat – Turning Color	50	n/a	28	35						

n/a = not available

County Agent Comments

“Producers made good progress this week with cotton planting. Soybean planting has cranked up full swing also this week for those that do not have cotton. Some reports of replanting of early April planted cotton due to stand loss from seed and seedling diseases as a result of cool wet weather since planting.”

Tim Campbell, Dyer County

“Twenty percent of our barley crop is lodged due to recent high winds. Combines will have to harvest in one direction to prevent major yield losses. Harvest should begin by Memorial Day.”

Ken J. Goddard, Henry County

“Frequent, numerous showers have delayed hay harvest, but have done little to contribute to hay growth.”

Ken Burress, Wayne County

“Tobacco will be set when dry enough. Strawberry diseases and slug damage caused yield reductions.”

David K. Glover, Smith County

“Over the winter several of the beekeepers in the county have reported that they have lost about 60% of their hives. Unknown what has caused this.”

James D. Estep, Hancock County

“Rains continue to make hay harvest difficult. Cooler conditions have made potential drying of hay very difficult.”

Chris Ramsey, Sullivan County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: May 21, 2006 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F Since April 1	
	Week Ending May 21, 2006				Current Week 05/21/06	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal	Total	DFN
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
Ames_Plantation	90	43	64	-6	0.04	2	22.44	-0.60	351	72
Tri-City_RGNL_A	76	38	56	-9	0.39	3	16.14	-0.16	126	22
Brownsville_TN	92	46	67	-4	0.24	3	22.99	-0.08	373	196
Chattanooga/Lov	87	46	63	-5	0.58	2	17.71	-5.37	314	116
Clarksville_Sew	77	46	63	-5	0.30	4	18.43	-2.62	269	69
Cookeville	77	42	57	-9	0.50	6	22.55	-0.88	157	83
Covington	91	46	66	-4	0.08	1	21.68	-1.32	324	74
Crossville_AP	75	41	56	-8	0.53	6	21.71	-1.69	165	60
Dayton	82	41	59	-8	0.59	3	18.90	-5.29	189	23
Dickson_AG	86	42	62	-6	1.00	3	20.14	-2.45	226	16
Dover_1W	79	46	61	-6	0.25	3	18.13	-3.91	231	69
Dyersburg	90	46	67	-4	0.06	2	18.95	-1.92	387	99
Erwin_1W	73	41	55	-8	1.53	7	20.74	2.12	123	-25
Huntingdon_Wate	82	45	63	-6	0.75	1	19.08	-2.88	283	110
Jackson_Exp_Stn	91	45	64	-5	0.06	3	21.18	-1.00	342	108
Kingston_AG	79	43	60	-5	0.85	5	23.06	-1.24	205	83
Knoxville_AP	78	44	60	-7	1.34	4	19.14	-0.70	253	102
Lewisburg	88	40	60	-6	0.48	4	20.83	-2.36	253	98
Lexington_TN	89	45	63	-6	0.64	3	19.86	-1.50	279	199
Linden	88	43	62	-5	0.78	3	22.14	-1.52	254	75
Martin	85	45	61	-7	0.48	3	21.86	0.27	250	45
Mc_Minnville_Tn	80	42	62	-6	1.52	5	25.11	2.74	275	18
Memphis_AG	91	46	66	-6	0.12	2	24.10	1.62	382	37
Milan	92	42	64	-5	0.31	3	19.88	-2.37	309	104
Murfreesboro_5N	82	44	60	-7	0.57	4	23.97	1.99	260	-28
Nashville_Metro	80	46	62	-7	0.32	5	18.86	-1.12	323	100
Newcomb	76	41	56	-6	0.99	6	19.92	-2.01	126	49
Oneida	76	41	56	-6	1.14	5	20.09	-1.84	132	-73
Portland_TN	73	44	58	-8	0.56	5	18.23	-2.94	189	40
Pulaski_Water_P	89	42	62	-7	0.82	3	22.72	-0.64	254	15
Savannah_6SW	89	45	64	-5	0.21	2	23.97	-0.95	332	143
Sparta_TN	79	41	60	-6	0.95	6	26.25	3.38	236	107
Springfield	76	40	58	-8	0.73	6	22.02	1.52	173	27
Springhill	82	43	61	-6	0.84	4	23.64	0.10	243	90
Union_City	84	47	63	-5	1.30	2	23.30	1.95	239	43
Waynesboro_TN	89	41	60	-6	0.34	4	25.18	0.14	234	20

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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The USDA, NASS, Tennessee Field Office gratefully acknowledges contributions to this publication by:
National Weather Service and the University of Tennessee's Extension.
